Building a Dance Camp 1925–1944

> "It seems as if everyone who loves music and has a sense of rhythm, must like to dance if given the chance."
>
> — Helen O. Storrow, "Experiences in Dancing," *The Trail Maker,* Magazine of the Massachusetts Girl Scouts, Inc., 1938

Dancing on platform, 1938 or 1939, Lily Conant on left

Conant Family Collection

Roaring 20s
Prohibition 1920 –1933

1929 Stock Market crashed, starting the Great Depression

1932 In his acceptance speech President-elect Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) pledged "a New Deal for the American people

1939 September 1
Hitler invaded Poland, starting World War II

1941 December 7
Pearl Harbor —
US entered World War II

1925 1930 1935 1940 1944

Helen Storrow's vision evolved. She commissioned a dance pavilion and new cabins, and in 1925 she hosted the first dance session. Expansion continued so camp would be large enough to accommodate the English Folk Dance Society's national summer school. In 1933, the school moved here. Two years later the Girl Scout leadership camp moved elsewhere, and this location between Long Pond and Round Pond became Pinewoods Camp.

100 YEARS Pinewoods 2025

Where dance, music, and song traditions thrive.

1925 First dance pavilion constructed and named C# for Cecil Sharp who had died the year before. This pavilion, rebuilt multiple times over the years, was renamed Hands Across in 2023.

The first two-person cabins were constructed in Longborough.

The Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill, Waltham, MA

July 1926 "A Street," now Longborough cabins

1925 The first Summer Vacation School held here on Long Pond. The two-week dance school, run by Boston Branch of the EFDS, was repeated in 1926.

UNKNOWN

May Gadd, a long time EFDS teacher in England, came to the US to teach in the 1927 Summer School. She taught and organized for the New York Branch, traveled for the EFDS around the country, and in 1937 became National Director of EFDS of America (later CDS, and then CDSS). In 1938, she and Frank Smith founded The Christmas Country Dance School in Berea, Kentucky.

1921–1927 Helen Storrow purchased properties on Round Pond for inclusion into camp: Hunsdon House, Pinecones, Kendall Ghyll, and Cottey House.

1927 After three years of separate schools, the EFDS Branches in the US formed a Federation to jointly hire teachers from England and run a summer school in Amherst again.

1927–1932 Building boom at Pine Tree Camp: John Raymond completed a roofless dance platform, another dance pavilion, and most of the current campus housing, culminating with the first flush toilets and electricity in 1932.

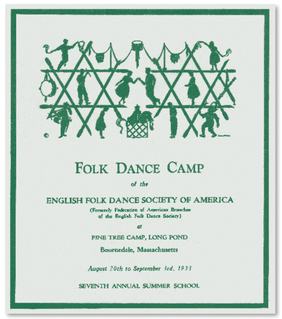
1932 Helen Storrow invited staff of EFDS summer school in Amherst to visit Long Pond; they decided to move the summer school here.

1933 The English Folk Dance Society of America, a solely American entity, replaced EFDS in the US. The annual summer school moved to Pine Tree Camp.

Lily Conant, May Gadd, and Melville Smith, a professor at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY continued as the artistic board for the dance camp.

The Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill, Waltham, MA

Scouts at work



FOLK DANCE CAMP
of the
ENGLISH FOLK DANCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA
(Formerly Federation of American Branches of the English Folk Dance Society)
at
PINE TREE CAMP, LONG POND
Bournedale, Massachusetts
August 20th to September 3rd, 1933
SEVENTH ANNUAL SUMMER SCHOOL

1933 brochure for the first EFDS of America camp on Long Pond

PINE TREE CAMP
First National Girl Scout Training School
Long Pond, Plymouth, Mass.
1935

Pine Tree Camp brochure, 1935, view from their new location

1934 Final year of the Girl Scout Leadership Training at this location. The program, now with national outreach, kept the camp name for continuity and moved to the south end of Long Pond.

1935 New name: Pinewoods Camp

1937 The dining hall and kitchen built

Non-dance groups began using camp to help defray costs

Pinewoods Institute, Social work conference weekend inaugurated and ran through 1968.

Pilgrim Fellowship (Christian youth camp) began week-long sessions and ran through mid-1960s

1940 The EFDS of America was renamed the Country Dance Society (CDS) in recognition of its combined English and American focus.

First Country Dance Society–Boston Centre weekend

1942–1944 World War II, no camp held for three years

1944 September The Great Atlantic Hurricane collapsed C#

November 10 Helen Osborne Storrow died, leaving Pinewoods to Richard and Lily Conant.

The Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill, Waltham, MA

The future of Camp remained uncertain.

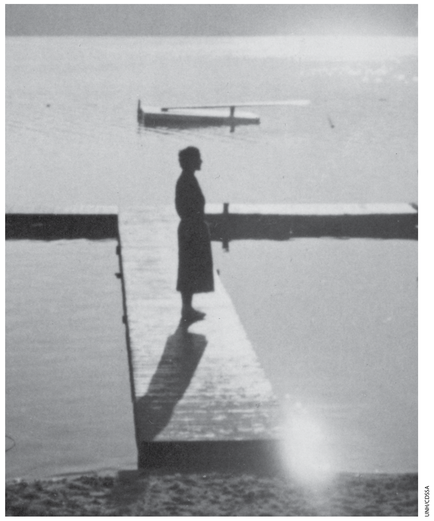
Helen Storrow on the dock, 1939

UNKNOWN

1936 or 1937 dancing on platform overlooking Long Pond

Conant Family Collection

C# post-hurricane, 1944



UNKNOWN

1939 Camphouse and beach

Conant Family Collection

1939 Camp Office

Conant Family Collection